

Dear members:

I am writing to you because I am opposed to HB 5447, An Act Implementing the recommendations of the auditors of public accounts concerning private providers of Special Education.

The title of the bill says a lot about where this legislation obviously stems from. While I would like to believe some research was done on how and what private providers do for individuals with special needs, reading this bill I would have to say there was not.

As the mother of a developmentally disabled individual who is currently outplace by our school district for services at a private school I take great issue with the limitations this bill will put on private providers.

Outplaced students are for the most part, the students that require the most intensive services and therapies that the school districts cannot provide in house. Some students even require residential placement due to severe behavioral issues.

Financial restrictions placed on private providers will basically aid in removing the I from IEP. You cannot put a set fee on what a special needs child may need. Therapies and services are ever changing based on need not a base standard. Hence the "individualized".

Not only will this bill effect the more severely disabled, it will lead the way and pave the path to restrict services for those students who receive their services in district. The more independent these individuals can become, the less services they will require as adults.

I implore you to vote NO on HB5447.

Sincerely,
Carol Lenihan
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